

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00
OIC-02 /128 W
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R 191134Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9248
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ABIDJAN 5807

LAGOS FOR DALLEY/HOLLOWAY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP, IV
SUBJECT: MID-DECADE CONFERENCE

1. DALLEY EXPRESSED THE GREAT SATISFACTION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WITH THE PRODUCTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED WITH THE IVORY COAST ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. HE COMMENDED THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY AMBASSADOR ESSY AND THE IVORY COAST DELEGATION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE 1978 SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY TO SECURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE COMMISSION. AKE RESPONDED THAT THE IVORY COAST TOOK ITS WORK ON THE COMMISSION VERY SERIOUSLY, THAT AMBASSADOR ESSY HAD SERVED ABLY ON HIS STAFF WHEN HE WAS IN NEW YORK AND HE WAS CERTAIN THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE THE BENEFICIAL COLLABORATION WE HAVE ENJOYED ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

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2. DALLEY THEN TURNED TO THE MID-DECADE CONFERENCE OF THE DECADE ON RACISM WHICH WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA THIS AUGUST, EXPLAINING THAT FOR THIS CONFERENCE THE U.S. PARTICULARLY NEEDED THE ASSISTANCE OF FRIENDS SUCH AS THE IVORY COAST BECAUSE WE WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPATING DUE TO THE CONTINUED LINKAGE OF THE

ACTIVITIES OF THE DECADE TO THE INFAMOUS RESOLUTION 3379 EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM. WE HOPED THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE A SUCCESS AND WOULD RESULT IN A PRODUCT, WHETHER A DECLARATION, A PROGRAM OF ACTION, OR RESOLUTIONS THAT SPOKE EFFECTIVELY TO THE PROBLEM OF RACISM WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM. IF THE CONFERENCE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN AVOIDING A REFERENCE TO RESOLUTION 3379 IT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE THAT THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE DECADE AND THE RESOLUTION WAS BROKEN AND COULD BE USED AS AN ARGUMENT FOR RESUMED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE DECADE. IF THE CONFERENCE REAFFIRMS THE LINKAGE, HOWEVER, THROUGH REFERENCE TO THE RESOLUTION, NOT ONLY WOULD CONTINUED NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DECADE BE ASSURED, BUT SUPPORT FOR ALL UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY TO COMBAT RACISM AND APARTHEID WOULD BE SERIOUSLY UNDERMINED IN THE U.S.

3. AKE EXPRESSED HIS REGRET AT THE U.S. DECISION,

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ABIDJAN 5807

LAGOS FOR DALLEY/HOLLOWAY

RECALLING THAT IN HIS RECENT MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN NEW YORK HE HAD URGED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE PLACED UPON THE DECADE BY AFRICAN NATIONS AND THEIR RECOGNITION

OF THE REALITY THAT THE PROGRAMS OF THE DECADE CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT WESTERN PARTICIPATION; AFRICAN STATES WERE ANXIOUS TO HAVE THIS IMPEDIMENT TO WESTERN PARTICIPATION REMOVED. AKE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE ORIGINAL SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTION BY MANY AFRICAN STATES WAS BASED UPON THEIR DESIRE TO SUPPORT THE ARABS; HE WAS CERTAIN THAT MOST DID NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT ZIONISM WAS AND CERTAINLY VIEWED IT AS IRRELEVANT TO THE DECADE AGAINST RACISM. SINCE THE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED THE AFRICAN NATIONS HAVE SUPPORTED WESTERN EFFORTS AGAINST ITS REAFFIRMATION, AND MOST REGARD THE ISSUE AS CLOSED. THERE WILL BE GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE U.S. DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MID-DECADE CONFERENCE. FURTHERMORE, OUR NON-PARTICIPATION
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WILL ENCOURAGE THE RADICAL STATES AND COMMUNISTS TO REPEAT THE REFERENCE TO THE RESOLUTION AS THEY HAVE THREATENED TO DO IN THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED STATES IN HAVANA. DALLEY INTERJECTED THAT WE VIEWED THIS DEVELOPMENT AS EXTREMELY SERIOUS AND THAT WAS WHY WE WERE URGENTLY APPROACHING OUR FRIENDS SUCH AS THE IVORY COAST FOR ASSISTANCE IN PREVENTING THE PERVERSION OF THIS IMPORTANT MID-DECADE CONFERENCE. AKE SAID THAT "YOUR FRIENDS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUCCEED UNLESS YOU ARE THERE TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP." IF THE U.S. PARTICIPATES, THE AFRICAN STATES, HE IS CONFIDENT, WILL BE RECEPTIVE TO EFFORTS TO CREATE A DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION FREE OF THE REFERENCE TO THE RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM. IF THE U.S. DOES NOT PARTICIPATE, THE AFRICAN STATES WILL LACK THE LEADERSHIP AND INCENTIVE TO FIGHT ON THIS ISSUE. DALLEY STRESSED AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING A REFERENCE TO RESOLUTION 3379 AND INDICATED THAT THE WESTERN STATES AND THE AFRICANS COULD COMBINE TO PREVENT SUCH A REFERENCE. AKE WAS SKEPTICAL THAT THIS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION AND AGAIN URGED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE, EVEN IF WE DID SO ON THE CONDITION THAT WE WOULD WALK OUT IF SUCH A REFERENCE WAS ADOPTED. "YOU SHOULD AT LEAST ATTEND THROUGH THE SETTING OF THE AGENDA," HE ARGUED, FOR THERE IS A CHANCE THAT WITH WORK PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE WE MIGHT SUCCEED IN AVOIDING THE TABLING OF THIS ISSUE AT THE CONFERENCE. DALLEY EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. WAS EFFECTIVELY BARRED FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE OR OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE DECADE BY TWO CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTIONS AND BY THE STRONG PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THE DEFINITION OF ZIONISM AS RACISM. WE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN
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THE CONFERENCE, BUT HOPED THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO REVIEW OUR POLICY AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN THE DECADE BY REFUSING TO CONTINUE THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE PROGRAMS OF THE DECADE AND RESOLUTION 3379. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD LEAD THE IVORIAN DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE AKE SAID HE DID NOT PLAN TO; EVEN THOUGH HE HAS STRONG INTEREST IN THE DECADE AND C.V. NARASHIMAN HAD ASKED HIM TO STAND FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CONFERENCE, HIS SCHEDULE WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TO SPEND THE TIME IN GENEVA. IF THE U.S. IS NOT GOING TO ATTEND, THAT IS ALL THE MORE REASON HE WILL NOT GO BECAUSE THE CONFERENCE IS CERTAIN TO BE UNPRODUCTIVE. AKE CONTINUED TO RESIST FURTHER URGINGS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AND URGED IN RETURN A RECONSIDERATION OF OUR DECISION AGAINST PARTICIPATION.

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